

three females at a considerable height, followed by a magnificent male Montagu's Harrier gliding low past, turning and alighting on a raised earthen bank and then again flying off down the valley. Seeing more birds coming up, I started counting and within the 45 minutes till 6 p.m. and a little after sundown I counted fifty birds mostly Pale Harriers—the females and juveniles could have been either Pale or Montagu's—and one female Marsh Harrier.

There was a wind blowing from the west down which the birds came. Fifteen days later Jamshed took his mother and sister to the same place and again close to sundown they counted over forty Harriers, this time several Marsh Harriers among predominantly identifiable Pale Harriers flying over from the west onto the plateau and on along the Godavari.

Looking at the map suggests to me that we may have here a major migration route along

the Godavari. The birds from over Saurashtra and Gujarat seem to cross onto the plateau north of the Trimbakeshwar Hills and then along the Godavari on towards the peninsula. Interestingly too, on both occasions there was a tail wind from the west. This is explained by the fact that in October and November the land and sea breezes again start blowing in the interim period before the N.E. monsoon becomes prevalent. The birds make use of the evening sea wind which brings them over the escarpment onto the plateau.

An interesting comment by Jamshed suggests this to be a narrow passage. The Harriers are not seen over his farm a little to the southwest of Nasik. The birds therefore apparently pass along the drier, more open undulating country north of the Godavari. It would be interesting to monitor the passage next October.

W. W. FUND-INDIA,
C/o. B.N.H.S.,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
S. BHAGATSINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY 400 023,
November 29, 1976.

LAVKUMAR KHACHER

11. A NOTE ON HUME'S GROUND CHOUGH *PODOCES HUMILIS* HUME

The Hume's Ground Chough is a rather jolly little bird found on the high bleak plateaux of Tibet. It is an extremely confiding bird walking briskly around, searching for food. During our visit to Mansarovar and Kailas in Western Tibet, Mr. Gurdial Singh and myself were continually charmed by the little bird's perky demeanour. In July, the month we were there, the choughs were busy raising noisy

families tucked away in crevices of small rock outcrops and even down burrows of high altitude rodents.

The HANDBOOK only gives the upper parts of the Tista in Sikkim as where this bird occurs in our limits. I found a bird with young at Bara Hoti Plain across the Chor Hoti Pass in Garhwal and one would expect to find it in the west in Spiti and Ladakh. I was therefore

surprised to learn that the BNHS/WWF expedition to Ladakh in the summer of 1976 did not record this bird in spite of a special look out for it.

W.W. FUND-INDIA,
C/o. B.N.H.S.,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY 400 023,
October 13, 1976.

LAVKUMAR KHACHER

12. BLACKTHROATED WEAVER BIRD [*PLOCEUS BENGHALENSIS* (LINNAEUS)] BREEDING NEAR BHAVNAGAR (SAURASHTRA)

I found *Ploceus benghalensis* breeding in a stagnant pond few miles south of Bhavnagar in a group of *Typha latifolia* Linne. on 7th October, 1976. There were in all four nests, one without a tubular entrance and not in use. The three occupied had tube entrances measuring as follows: 15, 11, and 8½ cm, the first and last placed close to each other. There was only one cock bird with three hens. Two nests had young, the bird probably young or eggs. I found the species rather shy. The nests are

slightly smaller than the common baya and the material used finer. This is the first time I have seen this species nesting in Saurashtra. Referring to HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN by Sálim Ali & Ripley, Vol. 10, p. 97, I find that in distribution for Gujarat (Deesa, Baroda and Kaira Districts) only are mentioned and as a vagrant in Kutch. I hope therefore, this record will add to its distribution.

DIL BAHAR,
BHAVNAGAR 2,
October 8, 1976.

R. S. DHARMAKUMARSINHJI

13. THE BIRDS OF GOA: A CORRECTION

In our paper on "The Birds of Goa" published in the Journal of Bombay Natural History Society (1976) Vol. 73(1), pp. 42-53, we had marked the race of *Falco tinnunculus* (serial No. 15) as *interstinctus* McClelland. It should

read *tinnunculus* Linnaeus. Also under serial No. 82, 'from feathers' should read 'from anterior border of nostril'.

These errors were pointed out by Mr Humayun Abdulali, whose interest is appreciated.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY 400 023,
June 18, 1977.

ROBERT B. GRUBH
SALIM ALI